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# The Cooperative Extension Service

A Nationwide Knowledge System



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## **The Cooperative Extension Service—A Nationwide Knowledge System**

The philosophy of the Cooperative Extension Service system is to reach and teach people with programs where they are—geographically, and in terms of interests, understanding, and skills. This could mean improved farm management for farmers, more energy-efficient housing for homeowners, or increased involvement in community decisionmaking for rural residents.

An informal educational organization, established by Congress in 1914, the Cooperative Extension Service is a partnership of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), State land-grant colleges and universities, and county governments. The cooperating colleges and universities are those authorized by Congress through the 1862, and later the 1890, land-grant acts.

Extension staffs in more than 3,000 counties nationwide draw on the knowledge of university and USDA specialists and research scientists to develop their programs for the public. County and area Extension personnel live and work in the communities they serve. They get to know people firsthand so they can develop practical educational programs to meet specific local needs in the areas of agriculture, natural resources, home economics, 4-H youth, and community and rural development.

Thousands of volunteer leaders contribute time and skills to help with Extension adult and youth programs. Educational information is presented through public meetings, demonstration projects, tours, personal visits, telephone calls, direct mailings, publications, computers, and mass media.



Agricultural programs help farmers, ranchers, and agribusinesses make the best use of agricultural research to meet food, fiber, and shelter needs. These programs show how to grow, market, process, and use farm products, and teach ways to adjust to changing economic conditions.

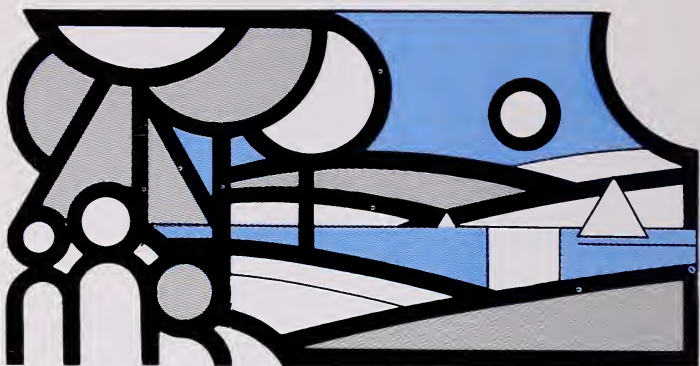
Extension specialists help both small- and large-scale farmers solve everyday problems of crops and soils, livestock and poultry, and farm machinery and buildings. Programs teach effective management practices for reducing water pollution, ways to conserve energy in agricultural production, and ways to use such alternative energy sources as solar heating and farm-produced alcohol. Other programs stress farm safety and safe use of pesticides.

Computers in homes and central offices bring farmers fast, up-to-date information to help with farm management and with crops and livestock production. Computer programs also provide farmers with the latest information on agricultural weather, markets, pest control, and meetings.

Extension assists farmer cooperatives, processors, wholesalers, and transporters of agricultural goods by helping them study the economic effects of foreign markets and consumer preferences. Other professional and business people who serve agriculture—veterinarians, vocational agriculture teachers, and bankers—also turn to Extension for technical information and training.

Special programs in farm and home management assist farmers with limited resources.

Extension office personnel also answer questions that rural and urban homeowners have concerning lawn, garden, landscaping, and insect control.



Programs in natural resources help people decide how to manage and use forest and range resources, and the benefits associated with them, such as wildlife, fish, and recreation. These programs also help with understanding complex ecological interrelationships.

With this information, landowners, users, decisionmakers, planners, and the general public can better understand how a particular natural resource can be enhanced for its economic and social benefits, while protecting the environment.

Through these programs, citizens also learn how to participate in the formulation of public natural resource policy, and how to gain popular support for programs that protect and develop natural resources.

Well-managed natural resources produce income and other benefits to owners, reduce dependence on imports, provide stable jobs and income to rural communities, and provide renewable sources of energy.





By providing practical, research-based information, Extension home economics educators help people resolve family-oriented problems and become self-reliant managers and community members. Home economics programs are designed with society's changing family structures in mind. As needs unique to low-income families, handicapped persons, women in the workforce, and single parents are identified, special educational assistance is planned.

The primary focus in home economics education includes family economic strength and security; energy and the natural environment; food, nutrition, and health; and family strength and social environment. Programs in all the diverse areas of home economics education—from family economics and resource management, housing and furnishings, clothing and textiles, to human growth and development—relate to these larger issues.

Extension specialists and home economists, trained volunteers, paraprofessional program aides, and professionals of other agencies and the private sector are involved in this wide-ranging educational effort.

Home economists use a variety of teaching methods. Intensive study is provided through individual contacts, workshops, and small or large group meetings. Large numbers of persons are reached through radio, television, newspapers, newsletters, publications, self-study courses, computer-assisted instruction, and audio-video teleconferences.



Extension's educational youth program is 4-H. Participation is open to all interested persons between the ages of 9 and 19. Programs are planned by Extension staffs in cooperation with volunteers and parents in local communities. The four "H's" on the four-leaf clover emblem stand for head, heart, hands, and health.

Youth participate through organized 4-H clubs, 4-H special interest or short-term groups, 4-H school enrichment programs, 4-H instructional television, 4-H camping, or as individual 4-H members.

Through learn-by-doing experiences, young persons acquire knowledge in agricultural sciences and family living, develop practical living skills, and form attitudes that enable them to become self-directing, producing, and contributing members of society.

In 4-H, these youth are involved in energy conservation, environmental improvement, community service, and food production; and participate in programs that aid youth employment and career decisions, health, nutrition, and family relationships. As a result of exchange programs with many countries, 4-H also is contributing to international understanding. In these various 4-H activities, youth apply leadership skills, acquire a positive self-concept, and learn to respect and get along with people.





Community and rural development programs help people improve the communities in which they live and work. Extension educators assist local people in developing jobs and economic opportunities, establishing community facilities and services, and strengthening a community's ability to define and solve its own problems.

Staffs at land-grant universities work with hundreds of other public and private agencies, organizations, and institutions to provide research, education, technical assistance, community surveys and studies, and organizational and leadership skills to local government bodies and citizen groups.

Community leaders and Extension specialists apply the latest scientific and technical knowledge to specific community planning and community concerns such as housing, health, water, sewage and solid waste, comprehensive planning, and recreation and tourism.

Some critical concerns Extension educators are working on with local citizens are community energy policy and conservation, rural transportation alternatives, small business and small farm management, rural crime, and the needs of the elderly.

The local Extension office is as close as the telephone—it probably is listed under county government in the Directory. Offices usually are located in the courthouse, post office, or other government buildings in the county seat town. Or write for information to the Director/Administrator of the Extension Service at the listed address.

Alabama-	Auburn University, Auburn 36849 Alabama A&M University, Normal 35762 Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee 36088
Alaska-	University of Alaska, Fairbanks 99701
Arizona-	University of Arizona, Tucson 85721
Arkansas-	University of Arkansas, Little Rock 72203 University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff 71601
California-	University of California, Berkeley 94720
Colorado-	Colorado State University, Fort Collins 80523
Connecticut-	University of Connecticut, Storrs 06268
Delaware-	University of Delaware, Newark 19711 Delaware State College, Dover 19901
District of Columbia-	University of the District of Columbia, Washington, DC 20005
Florida-	University of Florida, Gainesville 32611 Florida A&M University, Tallahassee 32307
Georgia-	University of Georgia, Athens 30602 The Fort Valley State College, Fort Valley 31030
Guam-	University of Guam, Agana 96910
Hawaii-	University of Hawaii, Honolulu 96822
Idaho-	University of Idaho, Moscow 83843
Illinois-	University of Illinois, Urbana 61801
Indiana-	Purdue University, West Lafayette 47907
Iowa-	Iowa State University, Ames 50011

Kansas-	Kansas State University, Manhattan 66506
Kentucky-	University of Kentucky, Lexington 40506 Kentucky State University, Frankfort 40601
Louisiana-	Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge 70803 Southern University and A&M College, Baton Rouge 70813
Maine-	University of Maine, Orono 04473
Maryland-	University of Maryland, College Park 20742 University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, Princess Anne 21853
Massachusetts-	University of Massachusetts, Amherst 01003
Michigan-	Michigan State University, East Lansing 48824
Minnesota-	University of Minnesota, St. Paul 55108
Mississippi-	Mississippi State University, Mississippi State 39762 Alcorn State College, Lorman 39096
Missouri-	University of Missouri, Columbia 65211 Lincoln University, Jefferson City 65101
Montana-	Montana State University, Bozeman 59715
Nebraska-	University of Nebraska, Lincoln 68583
Nevada-	University of Nevada, Reno 89557
New Hampshire-	University of New Hampshire, Durham 03824
New Jersey-	Rutgers State University, New Brunswick 08903
New Mexico-	New Mexico State University, Las Cruces 88003
New York-	New York State College of Agriculture, Ithaca 14853
North Carolina-	North Carolina State University, Raleigh 27650 North Carolina A&T State University, Greensboro 27420

North Dakota-	North Dakota State University, Fargo 58105
Ohio-	The Ohio State University, Columbus 43210
Oklahoma-	Oklahoma State University, Stillwater 74078 Langston University, Langston 73050
Oregon-	Oregon State University, Corvallis 97331
Pennsylvania-	The Pennsylvania State University, University Park 16802
Puerto Rico-	University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez 00708
Rhode Island-	University of Rhode Island, Kingston 02881
South Carolina-	Clemson University, Clemson 29631 South Carolina State College, Orangeburg 29115
South Dakota-	South Dakota State University, Brook- ings 57006
Tennessee-	University of Tennessee, Knoxville 37901 Tennessee State University, Nashville 37203
Texas-	Texas A&M University, College Station 77843 Prairie View A&M College, Prairie View 77445
Utah-	Utah State University, Logan 84321

Vermont-	University of Vermont, Burlington 05401
Virginia-	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg 24061 Virginia State College, Petersburg 23803
Virgin Islands-	College of the Virgin Islands, St. Croix 00850
Washington-	Washington State University, Pullman 99164
West Virginia-	West Virginia University, Morgantown 26506
Wisconsin-	University of Wisconsin, Madison 53706
Wyoming-	University of Wyoming, Laramie 82070

For information on Extension at the national and international level, write to the Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250

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Extension Service, United States Department of Agriculture, offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, age, national origin, or handicap, and it is an equal opportunity employer.



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